REMARKS

The following remarks are prepared in response to the Office Action mailed June 30, 2003. Claims 1-74 and 76-90 have been cancelled. Claims 75 and 91-97 remain in the application. Applicants respectfully request reexamination.

Claims 20, 91 and 94-96 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki et al. ("Sasaki", EP 0 945 886) in view of Asano et al. ("Asano", U.S. Patent No. 5,909,083). Claims 75 and 92 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki-Asano as applied to claim 20 above, and further in view of Browning ("Browning", U.S. Patent No. 6,030,267). Claim 93 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasaki-Asano-Browning as applied to claims 75 and 92 above, and further in view of Kosaka et al. ("Kosaka", U.S. Patent No. 6,039,622). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejected claims 95 and 96 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants herein provide amendments to claims 95 and 96 to clarify the claim language. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, to the claims in view of the amendments to claims 95 and 96.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Independent Claim 75

Claim 75 has been rewritten in independent form to include the elements of independent claim 20. The combination of Sasaki, Asano and Browning fails to disclose, teach or suggest a display panel manufacturing method comprising laminating a compound of the bonding agent

and a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent, and a material for forming the barrier ribs by forming layers of certain thicknesses, as recited in amended independent claim 75. In particular, the compound includes a bonding agent and a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent. In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner correctly asserts that both Sasaki and Asano fail to disclose the compound of the bonding agent and a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent. The Examiner also asserts that Browning discloses a manufacturing process for display panels where a bonding agent includes a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent; however, the description in Browning does not support the Examiner's assertion. In column 2, lines 32-36 and 54-55, Browning discloses that in manufacturing displays, it is desirable to align the plates as fast as possible at a low temperature and then send them to the sealing process. Browning is directed to using adhesive in combination with sol-gel to provide a faster alignment process. Sol-gel is used to hold the plates together during the remainder of the sealing process. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Sasaki, Asano or Browning that the compound includes a bonding agent and a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent.

Amended independent claim 75 recites a display panel manufacturing method comprising laminating a compound of the bonding agent and a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent. During manufacture of the display panel, the compound applied between the barrier ribs and the substrate is melted by heating and then hardens to bond the barrier ribs and the substrate. When the compound is heated, the bonding agent in the compound melts but the bonding agent does not spread into other undesirable areas (e.g., a discharge space) because the bonding agent is retained among the substance, which does not melt. Therefore, seepage of the bonding agent or materials contained in the bonding agent (e.g., pigments and residual carbon)

into other undesirable areas does not occur. This seepage generally causes deterioration in the light-emitting characteristics of the display panel which is prevented using the display panel manufacturing method recited in independent claim 75. Furthermore, the display panel manufactured using the method recited in independent claim 75 advantageously increases the strength of the display panel. Therefore, Sasaki, Asano and Browning, solely or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest a display panel manufacturing method comprising a compound of the bonding agent and a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent that prevent deterioration in the light-emitting characteristics of the display panel caused by seepage of the bonding agent into undesirable areas. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 75 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

Dependent Claims 91-97

Claims 91-97 depend from independent claim 75, adding structural features that more particularly define the invention and further distinguish over the cited references and the prior art of record. For example, claim 96 recites a display panel manufacturing method including enclosing gas at a pressure of no less than 760 torr. Enclosing gas at a pressure of no less than 760 torr improves the intensity and luminous efficiency of the display panel. Thus, the pressure inside the display panel increases, further strengthening the display panel. Hence, the combination of enclosing gas at a pressure of no less than 760 torr and using a compound of the bonding agent and a substance more difficult to melt than the bonding agent is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Sasaki, Asano and Browning, solely or in combination. For these reasons, and for the reasons set forth above for independent claim 75, the rejection of claims 91-97 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited. If any matters remain outstanding after consideration of the response that the Examiner believes might be expedited by a telephone conference with Applicants' representative, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 19-2814 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if any additional extension is required, then Applicants hereby requests such an extension.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 30, 2003

By: James Lee

Signature

Dated: October 30, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

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